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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

1419

TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/913845

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/SE00/00292INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
15 February 2000 (15.02.00)PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
17 February 1999 (17.02.99)

TITLE OF INVENTION A METHOD OF CHARACTERISING A TUNEABLE LASER

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US
Lars ANDERSSON

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☐ This is an express request to promptly begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)).
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☒ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11 to 16 below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☒ A substitute specification.
15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:

International Search Report
International Preliminary Examination Report
Initial Information Data Sheet
Receipt Postcard

Express Mail Label No. EF392178929US

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| U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/913845 | | INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/SE00/00292 | | ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER 1419 | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|--|

| <p>17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:</p> <p>BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :</p> <p>Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO \$1000.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO \$860.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$690.00</p> <p>International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) \$100.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =</p> <p>Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 15%;">CLAIMS</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NUMBER FILED</th> <th style="width: 20%;">NUMBER EXTRA</th> <th style="width: 20%;">RATE</th> <th style="width: 15%;">AMOUNT</th> <th style="width: 10%;">TOTAL</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Total claims</td> <td>6 - 20 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>X \$18.00</td> <td>\$ 0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Independent claims</td> <td>1 - 3 =</td> <td>0</td> <td>X \$80.00</td> <td>\$ 0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable)</td> <td>+ \$270.00</td> <td>\$ 0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4" style="text-align: right;">TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</td> <td>\$ 1000</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">SUBTOTAL =</p> <p>Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <input type="checkbox"/> 20 <input type="checkbox"/> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =</p> <p>Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property</p> <p style="text-align: right;">TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">Amount to be refunded:</td> <td style="width: 20%; text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: right;">charged:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$</td> </tr> </table> | CLAIMS | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE | AMOUNT | TOTAL | Total claims | 6 - 20 = | 0 | X \$18.00 | \$ 0 | | Independent claims | 1 - 3 = | 0 | X \$80.00 | \$ 0 | | MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) | | | + \$270.00 | \$ 0 | | TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ 1000 | | | Amount to be refunded: | \$ | | charged: | \$ | <p style="text-align: center;">CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY</p> |
|---|------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------|--------|-------|--------------|----------|---|-----------|------|--|--------------------|---------|---|-----------|------|--|---|--|--|------------|------|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---------|--|--|------------------------|----|--|----------|----|---|
| CLAIMS | NUMBER FILED | NUMBER EXTRA | RATE | AMOUNT | TOTAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total claims | 6 - 20 = | 0 | X \$18.00 | \$ 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Independent claims | 1 - 3 = | 0 | X \$80.00 | \$ 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) (if applicable) | | | + \$270.00 | \$ 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS = | | | | \$ 1000 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Amount to be refunded: | \$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | charged: | \$ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

a. ☐ A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.

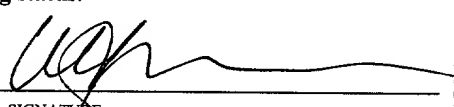
b. ☒ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 501300 in the amount of \$1000.00 to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 501300. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Alfred J. Mangels
4729 Cornell Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45241


SIGNATURE

Alfred J. Mangels
NAME

22,605
REGISTRATION NUMBER

**PATENT COOPERATION TREATY
IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED OFFICE (EO/US)**

In re application of:]
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Lars ANDERSSON]
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Int'l. Appl'n. No.: PCT/SE00/00292]
] PCT DO/EO Section
Int'l. Filing Date: 15 February 2000]
]]
Priority Date: 17 February 1999]
]]
For: A METHOD OF CHARACTERISING]
A TUNEABLE LASER]

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination, and before the calculation of the national filing fee, please
amend the above-identified international application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Kindly enter the substitute specification attached hereto as Attachment A. The
substitute specification includes no new matter. Also enclosed, as Attachment B, is a copy of the
substitute specification showing all the changes, including the matter being added to and the matter
being deleted from the specification that forms part of the published international application upon
which the present application is based (PCT/SE00/00292, publication No. WO 00/54380).

IN THE CLAIMS:

The rewritten claims in this application are as follows:

1. (Amended) A method of evaluating a tuneable laser and determining suitable laser operation points, wherein said laser includes two or more tuneable sections in which injected currents can be varied, of which sections at least one is a reflector section and one is a phase section, said method comprising the steps of: leading part of the light emitted by the laser to an arrangement which includes a Fabry-Perot filter, a first light detector, and a second light detector, said detectors being adapted to measure the power of the laser and to deliver a corresponding detector output signal; arranging the detectors relative to the Fabry-Perot filter so that the detector output signals contain information relating at least to the wavelength of the detected light; sweeping the currents through the tuneable sections to pass through different current combinations; measuring the ratio between the detector output signals during said sweep, wherein the reflector current is an inner sweep variable which is swept in one direction and then in an opposite direction back to its start value; and storing the control combination for said tuning currents when the ratio between the detector output signals lies within a predetermined range signifying that the emitted light lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter, and said ratio lies within said predetermined range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of said reflector current.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the Fabry-Perot filter is operable to exhibit a certain transmission for each wavelength included in a channel plane which contains desired wavelengths and exhibits a transmission that deviates therefrom with respect to other wavelengths.

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, including the step of: delivering the output signal from one detector at the front mirror of the laser to a power regulating circuit operable to control the laser to emit light with a constant power from the front mirror.

4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, including the steps of: providing a monitor diode on a side of the laser opposite to that side on which the first and the second light detectors are placed to measure the light emitted by the laser; and adjusting the tuning currents to minimize the ratio between the power of the rearwardly emitted light and the power of the forwardly emitted light, therewith optimizing an operation point for the laser.

5. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, including the step of: sweeping at least one tuning current other than the reflector current to sections that exhibit a hysteresis effect, to determine whether or not hysteresis occurs at a contemplated operation point.

6. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, including the steps of: measuring the wavelength transmitted by the laser at a number of possible operation points until one operation point has been obtained for each desired wavelength, and storing the control combination for each such operation point.

REMARKS

The specification changes reflected in the enclosed substitute specification (Attachment A) include the addition of the preferred subheadings at appropriate places within the

specification, and they also include minor corrections. None of the changes made in the substitute specification introduces new matter because each change is based upon the specification of the international application as it was published. Attachment B shows the changes that were made in the substitute specification to the specification that was published by the International Bureau.

The claims as above amended present the claimed subject matter in the U.S. claim form to more particularly point out and more distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as his invention.

Attached hereto as Attachment C is a set of the claims as they were allowed in the international application, showing all additions, deletions, and modifications of those claims that are reflected in the clean claims presented above.

Also attached hereto is an Abstract of the Disclosure presented on a separate sheet in conformity with the rules of practice.

Based upon the specification and claim amendments to this national phase application, it is believed that the specification conforms with U.S. formal requirements. Additionally, the amended claims as hereinabove presented conform in substance with the corresponding claims that were examined in the international application. And based upon the acceptance by the International Preliminary Examining Authority of the invention as it was claimed in the claims as they were originally presented in the international application as meeting each of the novelty, the inventive step, and the industrial applicability criteria set forth in the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the claims in the present application are believed to conform with both U.S. formal and substantive requirements, and they are therefore believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is in order and is respectfully solicited.

Should the examiner have any question after considering this Preliminary

Amendment, he is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney so that any such question can be quickly resolved, and in order that the present application can proceed toward allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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Telephone: (513) 469-0470

August 17, 2001

A METHOD OF CHARACTERISING A TUNEABLE LASER

The present invention relates to a method of enabling a tuneable laser to be characterised quickly.

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The method can be applied for evaluating and selecting lasers with respect to emitted wavelength and to find good operation points systematically.

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Tuneable semiconductor lasers have a number of different sections through which current is injected, typically three or four such sections. The wavelength, power and mode purity of the lasers can be controlled by adjusting the current injected into the various sections. Mode purity implies that the laser shall be in an operation point, i.e. at a distance from a combination of the drive currents where so-called mode jumps take place and where lasering is stable and side mode suppression is high.

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In the case of telecommunications applications, it is necessary that the laser is able to retain its wavelength to a very high degree of accuracy and over very long periods of time, after having set the drive currents and the temperature. A typical accuracy in this respect is 0.1 nanometer and a typical time period is 20 years.

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In order to be able to control the laser, it is necessary to map the behaviour of the laser as a function of the various drive currents. This is necessary prior to using the laser after its manufacture.

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Mapping of the behaviour of a laser is normally effected by connecting the laser to different measuring instruments and then varying the drive currents systematically. Such instruments are normally power meters, optical spectrum
5 analysers for measuring wavelength and sidemode suppression, and line width measuring devices. This laser measuring process enables all of these parameters to be fully mapped as a function of all different drive currents.

10 One problem is that lasers exhibit an hysteresis. As a result of these hystereses, the laser will deliver different output signals in the form of power and wavelength in respect of a given drive current set-up, i.e. with respect to a given operation point, depending on the path through which the
15 laser has passed with respect to the change in said drive currents in order to arrive at the working point in question. Thus, this means that a given drive current set-up will not unequivocally give the expected wavelength or power.

20 In the case of a tuneable laser, the wavelength of the emitted light is determined mainly by the current or voltage across the tuning sections. The power emitted is controlled by current to the gain section of the laser or by the current across said section.

25 When characterising a laser, all of the possible control combinations afforded by the tuning sections, or a subset of said sections, are investigated. During the characterising process, the emitted light is studied with respect to
30 wavelength and sidemode suppression and controlling the gain section with regard to power adjustment.

The enormous number of possible control combinations, typically tens of billions of which fewer than a hundred shall be selected, makes total mapping of the laser impossible in view of the large amount of data generated.

The present invention solves this problem and provides a method of quickly sorting away control combinations that do not result in correct wavelengths.

The present invention also relates to a method of evaluating a tuneable laser and determining suitable laser operation points for a laser that includes two or more tuneable sections in which injected current can be varied and of which at least one is a reflector section and one is a phase section, wherein said method is characterised by leading part of the light emitted by the laser to an arrangement that includes a Fabry-Perot filter and a first and a second detector, said detectors being adapted to measure the power of the light and to deliver a corresponding detector signal; arranging the detectors relative to the Fabry-Perot filter such that the data signals will contain information relating at least to the wavelength of the detected light; sweeping the currents through the tuning sections so as to pass through different current combinations; measuring the ratio between the two detector signals during said sweeps; sweeping the reflector current in the inner sweep variable in one direction and then in the opposite direction back to its start value; and storing the control combination for the tuning currents when the ratio between the detector signals lies within a predetermined range that indicates that the light emitted lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter and said ratio lies within

said predetermined range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of said current.

The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to exemplifying embodiments thereof and also with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

- Figure 1 is a perspective, partially cut-away view of a DBR laser;
- Figure 2 is a sectional view of a tuneable Grating Coupled Sampled Reflector (GCSR) laser;
- Figure 3 is a sectional view of a Sampled Grating DBR laser; and
- Figure 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an arrangement which is used in accordance with the invention.

Shown in Figure 1 is a DBR laser which includes three sections, namely a Bragg reflector 1, a phase section 2 and a gain section 3. Each section is controlled by injecting current into respective sections through respective electric conductors 4, 5, 6.

Figure 2 is a sectional view of a tuneable Grating Coupled Sampled Reflector (GCSR) laser. Such a laser includes four sections, i.e. a Bragg reflector 7, a phase section 8, a coupler 9 and a gain section 10. Each of the sections is controlled by injecting current into respective sections.

Figure 3 is a sectional view of a Sampled Grating DBR laser that also includes four sections 11, 12, 13, 14, of which sections 11 and 14 are Bragg reflectors, section 13 is the phase section, and section 12 is the gain section.

These three laser types are common, although other types of lasers exist.

Although the invention is described below essentially with reference to a GCSR laser according to Figure 2, it will be understood that the invention is not too restricted to any particular type of tuneable semiconductor laser, but can be applied correspondingly with tuneable lasers other than those illustrated by way of example in the drawings.

The present invention relates to a method of evaluating tuneable lasers and determining suitable laser operation points. The laser may thus contain two or more tuneable sections in which injected current can be varied in a known manner. The laser is of the kind which includes at least one reflector section and one phase section.

Figure 4 is a block diagram which illustrates an arrangement used in accordance with the present invention. The reference numeral 15 identifies a GCSR laser, while the reference numeral 16 identifies current generators for injecting current into the reflector section, the phase section and the coupler section respectively of said laser, through respective conductors 17, 18 and 19. The power of the laser is controlled to its gain section by means of a power regulating circuit 20, via a conductor 21.

The laser emits light from the front mirror to a light conductor 23, for instance light fibre, via a lens pack 22. This light conductor leads the light to a light splitter or divider 26 which switches part of the light to another light conductor 24. The remainder of the light is led further in

the conductor 25. The light splitter 26 switches, e.g., 10% of the light from the conductor 23 to the conductor 24.

5 The light conductor 24 leads the light to a second light splitter or divider 27 which functions to divide the light equally between two light conductors 28, 29. A lens 30 and a lens 31 are disposed at respective ends of the light conductors. A Fabry-Perot filter 32 is provided in the beam path downstream of the lens 30. The filter 32 is well known
10 and will not therefore be described in more detail in this document. Fabry-Perot filters can be designed to exhibit a certain light transmission solely for certain wavelengths, normally wavelengths that are multiples of a given wavelength. The Fabry-Perot filter exhibits a deviating lower
15 or higher transmission at other wavelengths.

A first detector 33 is provided downstream of the lens 31, and a second detector 34 is provided downstream of the Fabry-Perot filter. The detectors 33, 34 function to measure the
20 power of the light and to deliver a corresponding detector signal to an A/D converter 37, via a respective amplifier 35, 36.

25 The A/D converter 37, the power regulating circuit 20 and the current generators 16 are all connected to a microprocessor 39 via a data bus 38. The microprocessor is adapted to control the current generators and the power regulating circuit in a desired and a well known manner, in response to the signals from the A/D converter 37 and the power
30 regulating circuit 20.

According to the invention, part of the forwardly emitted light is thus conducted to the first detector 31 and also to the second detector 34, via the Fabry-Perot filter 32.

5 According to the invention, the currents are swept through the tuning sections 18, 19, 21 such as to pass through different current combinations. The ratio between the two detector signals I1 and I2 is measured during said sweeps.

10 When sweeping the currents through the tuning sections, the reflector current is the inner sweep variable. It is meant by this that the reflector current is swept for different combinations of other tuning currents while holding said currents constant. The reflector current is swept first in
15 one direction and then in the opposite direction, back to its start value. For instance, the reflector current is swept from a zero value and up to its maximum value and then down to zero again.

20 By current control in the present document is meant that the current through the sections is controlled by current generators or, alternatively, by controlling the voltage across the sections.

25 In the case of the Figure 4 embodiment, the first detector, the second detector and the Fabry-Perot filter are placed in the proximity of the front mirror of the laser. Alternatively, the components may equally as well be placed in the proximity of the rear mirror of the laser, in which
30 case light emitted from the rear mirror of said laser is used to determine the wavelength.

The Fabry-Perot filter and the first and the second detector may be arranged relative to one another in a manner different to that shown in Figure 4, so as to detect at least wavelengths. The first and the second detector may be arranged to measure light transmitted through the Fabry-Perot filter and/or light reflected towards the Fabry-Perot filter, such as to detect wavelengths.

The hysteresis effect exhibited by lasers causes the power output of the laser in respect of certain reflector currents, with otherwise constant conditions, to be different due to the reflector current having taken its existing value by virtue of the reflector current having increased to said value or having decreased from a higher value. The wavelength is also influenced by the hysteresis effect. Such operation points as those which lie in the regions of hysteresis with respect to the reflector current, or with respect to other tuning currents for those sections that exhibit hysteresis, are non-preferred operation points for a laser in operation.

Communication lasers shall be adapted to operate at certain given wavelengths that are included in a so-called channel plane, where each channel corresponds to a well defined wavelength. According to the invention, the Fabry-Perot filter 32 is adapted to have a certain given transmission for each wavelength included in the channel plane.

When the ratio between the detector signals I_1/I_2 from the detectors 32, 33 lies within a predetermined range implying that the emitted light lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter and said ratio I_1/I_2 lies within said range for a given reflector current in

both sweep directions of the reflector current, the control combination for the tuning currents is stored in accordance with the invention.

5 This range is given by the permitted channel width in the channel plane.

10 These control combinations thus fulfil the criteria that will give desired wavelengths and not result in any hysteresis effect.

15 In certain cases, it is preferred that one or more other tuneable currents to sections that exhibit an hysteresis effect, excluding the reflector current, are swept so as to determine whether or not hysteresis occurs in a contemplated operation point.

20 According to one preferred embodiment, the signal I2 is delivered from the first detector 33 to the power regulating circuit 20. The regulating circuit is adapted to control the laser so that said laser will emit light at a constant power. This enables the ratio I1/I2 to be followed very easily in determining possible operation points.

25 According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, a monitored diode is placed on the side of the laser opposite to that side on which the first and the second detectors are placed, said monitor diode being caused to measure the light emitted by the laser. The detector signal is led through an
30 amplifier 41 to an A/D converter 42, whose output signal is delivered to the microprocessor 39. In this embodiment, one or more of the tuneable currents is chosen so as to minimise

the ratio between the power of the rearwardly emitted light and the power of the forwardly emitted light, thereby enabling an optimum operation point for a channel to be selected from said possible operation points.

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The monitor diode 40 is placed adjacent the rear mirror of the laser in the Figure 4 embodiment.

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It is highly preferred with a number of the possible operation points taken out to measure the wavelength emitted by the laser until an operation point has been obtained with each desired wavelength, wherewith the control combination for each operation point is stored. Thus, one control combination for each channel in the channel plane will be stored in the memory of the microprocessor.

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It will be evident from the foregoing that the use of a Fabry-Perot filter enables all those control combinations that do not fulfil the criterion that the ratio between the currents I_1/I_2 shall lie within a certain given range to be sorted out. Moreover, it is sufficient for communications purposes to identify one control combination for each wavelength in the channel plane that lies in a region in which the laser exhibits no hysteresis.

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The present invention thus solves the problem mentioned in the introduction.

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Although different embodiments have been described, and therewith in respect of a GCSR laser, it will be obvious that the structural design of the described arrangement can be

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It will therefore be understood that the present invention is not restricted to the aforescribed and illustrated exemplifying embodiments thereof and that variations can be made within the scope of the following Claims.

CLAIMS

1. A method of evaluating a tuneable laser (15) and determining suitable laser operation points, wherein said
5 laser includes two or more tuneable sections in which injected currents can be varied, of which sections at least one is a reflector section and one is a phase section, **characterised** by leading part of the light emitted by the laser (15) to an arrangement which includes a Fabry-Perot
10 filter (32) and a first detector (33) and a second detector (34), said detectors being adapted to measure the power of the laser and to deliver a corresponding detector signal (I1, I2); arranging the detectors relative to the Fabry-Perot filter so that the detector signals (I1, I2) will contain
15 information relating at least to the wavelength of the detected light; sweeping the currents through the tuning sections (17, 18, 19) such as to pass through different current combinations; measuring the ratio between the two detector signals (I1, I2) during said sweep, wherein the reflector current (17) is the inner sweep variable which is swept in one direction and then in an opposite direction back to its start value; and storing the control combination for
20 said tuning currents when the ratio between the detector signals (I1, I2) lies within a predetermined range signifying that the emitted light lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter (32) and said ratio lies within said predetermined range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of said reflector current.

2. A method according to Claim 1, **characterised** in that the Fabry-Perot filter (32) exhibits a certain transmission

for each wavelength included in a channel plane which contains desired wavelengths and exhibits a transmission that deviates therefrom with respect to other wavelengths.

5 3. A method according to Claim 1 or 2, **characterised** by delivering the signal from one detector (33) at the front mirror of the laser to a power regulating circuit (20) which is adapted to control the laser (15) to emit light with a constant power from the front mirror.

10 4. A method according to Claim 1, 2 or 3, **characterised** by causing a monitor diode (40) placed on the side of the laser (15) opposite to that side on which the first (32) and the second (33) detectors are placed to measure the light emitted by the laser; and adjusting one or more of the tuning currents so as to minimize the ratio between the power of the rearwardly emitted light and the power of the forwardly emitted light, therewith optimising an operation point for the laser (15).

15 5. A method according to Claim 1, 2, 3 or 4, **characterised** by sweeping one or more other tuning currents to sections that exhibit an hysteresis effect, excluding the reflector current, so as to determine whether or not hysteresis occurs in a contemplated operation point.

20 6. A method according to Claim 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, **characterised** by measuring the wavelength transmitted by the laser (15) in a number of the possible operation points taken out until one operation point has been obtained for each desired wavelength, and storing the control combination for each operation point.

ATTACHMENT C**Allowed International Application Claims as Amended Herein**

1. (Amended) A method of evaluating a tuneable laser [(15)] and determining suitable laser operation points, wherein said laser includes two or more tuneable sections in which injected currents can be varied, of which sections at least one is a reflector section and one is a phase section, [characterised by] said method comprising the steps of: leading part of the light emitted by the laser [(15)] to an arrangement which includes a Fabry-Perot filter [(32) and] , a first light detector [(33)] , and a second light detector [(34)], said detectors being adapted to measure the power of the laser and to deliver a corresponding detector output signal [(I1, I2)]; arranging the detectors relative to the Fabry-Perot filter so that the detector output signals [(I1, I2) will] contain information relating at least to the wavelength of the detected light; sweeping the currents through the [tuning] tunable sections [(17, 18, 19) such as] to pass through different current combinations; measuring the ratio between the [two] detector output signals [(I1, I2)] during said sweep, wherein the reflector current [(17)] is [the] an inner sweep variable which is swept in one direction and then in an opposite direction back to its start value; and storing the control combination for said tuning currents when the ratio between the detector output signals [(I1, I2)] lies within a predetermined range signifying that the emitted light lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter [(32)] , and said ratio lies within said predetermined range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of said reflector current.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the Fabry-Perot filter [(32) exhibits] is operable to exhibit a certain transmission for each wavelength included in a channel plane which contains desired wavelengths and exhibits a transmission that deviates therefrom with respect to other wavelengths.

3. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1 [or 2, characterised by] , including the step of: delivering the output signal from one detector [(33)] at the front mirror of the laser to a power regulating circuit [(20) which is adapted] operable to control the laser [(15)] to emit light with a constant power from the front mirror.

4. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, [2 or 3, characterised by causing] including the steps of: providing a monitor diode [(40) placed] on [the] a side of the laser [(15)] opposite to that side on which the first [(32)] and the second [(33)] light detectors are placed to measure the light emitted by the laser; and adjusting [one or more of] the tuning currents [so as] to minimize the ratio between the power of the rearwardly emitted light and the power of the forwardly emitted light, therewith [optimising] optimizing an operation point for the laser [(15)].

5. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, [2, 3 or 4, characterised by] including the step of: sweeping at least one [or more other] tuning [currents] current other than the reflector current to sections that exhibit [an] a hysteresis effect,

[excluding the reflector current so as] to determine whether or not hysteresis occurs
[in] at a contemplated operation point.

6. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, [2, 3, 4 or 5, characterised by]
including the steps of: measuring the wavelength transmitted by the laser [(15) in] at
a number of [the] possible operation points [taken out] until one operation point has
been obtained for each desired wavelength, and storing the control combination for
each such operation point.

ATTACHMENT B**SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION**

(Showing All Changes From Published International Application No.
PCT/SE00/00292)

A METHOD OF CHARACTERISING A TUNEABLE LASER**Background of the Invention****Field of the Invention**

[0001] The present invention relates to a method of enabling a tuneable laser to be [characterised] characterized quickly.

[0002] The method can be applied for evaluating and selecting lasers with respect to emitted wavelength and to find good operation points systematically.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] Tuneable semiconductor lasers have a number of different sections through which current is injected, typically three or four such sections. The wavelength, power and mode purity of the lasers can be controlled by adjusting the current injected into the various sections. Mode purity implies that the laser [shall be in] is at an operation point, i.e., at a distance from a combination of the drive currents where so-called mode jumps take place, and where lasering is stable and side mode suppression is high.

[0004] In the case of telecommunications applications, it is necessary that the laser is able to retain its wavelength to a very high degree of accuracy and over very long periods of time, after having set the drive currents and the temperature. A typical accuracy in this respect is 0.1 nanometer and a typical time period is 20 years.

[0005] In order to be able to control the laser, it is necessary to map the [behaviour] behavior of the laser as a function of the various drive currents. This is necessary prior to using the laser after its manufacture.

[0006] Mapping of the [behaviour] behavior of a laser is normally effected by connecting the laser to different measuring instruments and then varying the drive currents systematically. Such instruments are normally power meters, optical spectrum [analysers] analyzers for measuring wavelength and sidemode suppression, and line width measuring devices. This laser measuring process enables all of these parameters to be fully mapped as a function of all different drive currents.

[0007] One problem is that lasers exhibit [an] hysteresis. As a result of [these hystereses] the hysteresis, the laser will deliver different output signals in the form of power and wavelength in respect of a given drive current set-up, i.e., with respect to a given operation point, depending on the path through which the laser has passed with respect to the change in said drive currents, in order to arrive at the working point in question. Thus, this means that a given drive current set-up will not unequivocally give the expected wavelength or power.

[0008] In the case of a tuneable laser, the wavelength of the emitted light is determined mainly by the current or voltage across the tuning sections. The power emitted is controlled by current to the gain section of the laser or by the [current] voltage across said section.

[0009] When [characterising] characterizing a laser, all of the possible control combinations afforded by the tuning sections, or a subset of said sections, are

investigated. During the [characterising] characterizing process, the emitted light is studied with respect to wavelength and sidemode suppression and controlling the gain section with regard to power adjustment.

[0010] The enormous number of possible control combinations, typically tens of billions₁ of which fewer than a hundred [shall] will be selected, makes total mapping of the laser impossible in view of the large amount of data generated.

Summary of the Invention

[0011] The present invention solves this problem and provides a method of quickly sorting away control combinations that do not result in correct wavelengths.

[0012] The present invention also relates to a method of evaluating a tuneable laser and determining suitable laser operation points for a laser that includes two or more tuneable sections₁ in which injected current can be varied and of which at least one is a reflector section and one is a phase section [, wherein said] . The method [is characterised by] includes leading part of the light emitted by the laser to an arrangement that includes a Fabry-Perot filter and a first and a second detector, said detectors being adapted to measure the power of the light and to deliver a corresponding detector signal [; arranging the] . The detectors are arranged relative to the Fabry-Perot filter such that the data signals will contain information relating at least to the wavelength of the detected light [; sweeping the] . The currents are swept through the tuning sections so as to pass through different current combinations [; measuring] , and the ratio between the two detector signals during said sweeps [; sweeping the] is measured. The reflector current in the inner sweep variable is swept in one direction and then in the opposite direction back to its start

value [; and storing the] . The control combination for the tuning currents is stored when the ratio between the detector signals lies within a predetermined range that indicates that the light emitted lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter, and [said] when the ratio lies within said predetermined range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of said current.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0013] The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to exemplifying embodiments thereof and also with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

[0014] -Figure 1 is a perspective, partially cut-away view of a DBR laser;

[0015] -Figure 2 is a sectional view of a tuneable Grating Coupled Sampled Reflector (GCSR) laser;

[0016] -Figure 3 is a sectional view of a Sampled Grating DBR laser; and

[0017] -Figure 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an arrangement which is used in accordance with the invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

[0018] Shown in Figure 1 is a DBR laser which includes three sections, namely a Bragg reflector 1, a phase section 2 and a gain section 3. Each section is controlled by injecting current into respective sections through respective electric conductors 4, 5, 6.

[0019] Figure 2 is a sectional view of a tuneable Grating Coupled Sampled Reflector (GCSR) laser. Such a laser includes four sections, i.e., a Bragg reflector 7,

a phase section 8, a coupler 9 and a gain section 10. Each of the sections is controlled by injecting current into the respective sections.

[0020] Figure 3 is a sectional view of a Sampled Grating DBR laser that also includes four sections 11, 12, 13, 14, of which sections 11 and 14 are Bragg reflectors, section 13 is the phase section, and section 12 is the gain section.

[0021] These three laser types are common, although other types of lasers exist.

[0022] Although the invention is described below essentially with reference to a GCSR laser according to Figure 2, it will be understood that the invention is not [too] restricted to any particular type of tuneable semiconductor laser, but can be applied correspondingly with tuneable lasers other than those illustrated by way of example in the drawings.

[0023] The present invention relates to a method of evaluating tuneable lasers and determining suitable laser operation points. The laser may thus contain two or more tuneable sections in which injected current can be varied in a known manner. The laser is of the kind which includes at least one reflector section and one phase section.

[0024] Figure 4 is a block diagram which illustrates an arrangement used in accordance with the present invention. The reference numeral 15 identifies a GCSR laser, while the reference numeral 16 identifies current generators for injecting current into the reflector section, the phase section and the coupler section respectively of said laser, through respective conductors 17, 18 and 19. The power of the laser is controlled to its gain section by means of a power regulating circuit 20, via a conductor 21.

[0025] The laser emits light from the front mirror to a light conductor 23, for instance a light-conducting [fibre] fiber, via a lens pack 22. This light conductor leads the light to a light splitter or divider 26 which switches part of the light to another light conductor 24. The remainder of the light is led further in the light conductor 25. The light splitter 26 switches, e.g., 10%₁ of the light from the conductor 23 to the conductor 24.

[0026] The light conductor 24 leads the light to a second light splitter or divider 27₁ which functions to divide the light equally between two light conductors 28, 29. A lens 30 and a lens 31 are disposed at respective ends of the light conductors. A Fabry-Perot filter 32 is provided in the beam path downstream of the lens 30. The filter 32 is well known and will not therefore be described in more detail in this document. Fabry-Perot filters can be designed to exhibit a certain light transmission solely for certain wavelengths, normally wavelengths that are multiples of a given wavelength. The Fabry-Perot filter exhibits a deviating lower or higher transmission at other wavelengths.

[0027] A first detector 33 is provided downstream of the lens 31, and a second detector 34 is provided downstream of the Fabry-Perot filter. The detectors 33, 34 function to measure the power of the light and to deliver a corresponding detector signal to an A/D converter 37, via a respective amplifier 35, 36.

[0028] The A/D converter 37, the power regulating circuit 20 and the current generators 16 are all connected to a microprocessor 39 via a data bus 38. The microprocessor is adapted to control the current generators and the power regulating

circuit in a desired and a well known manner, in response to the signals from the A/D converter 37 and the power regulating circuit 20.

[0029] According to the invention, part of the forwardly emitted light is thus conducted to the first detector [31] 33 and also to the second detector 34, via the Fabry-Perot filter 32.

[0030] According to the invention, the currents are swept through the tuning sections 18, 19, 21 such as to pass through different current combinations. The ratio between the two detector signals I1 and I2 is measured during said sweeps.

[0031] When sweeping the currents through the tuning sections, the reflector current is the inner sweep variable. It is meant by this that the reflector current is swept for different combinations of other tuning currents while holding said other currents constant. The reflector current is swept first in one direction and then in the opposite direction, back to its start value. For instance, the reflector current is swept from a zero value and up to its maximum value and then down to zero again.

[0032] By current control in the present document is meant that the current through the sections is controlled by current generators or, alternatively, by controlling the voltage across the sections.

[0033] In the case of the Figure 4 embodiment, the first detector 33, the second detector 34 and the Fabry-Perot filter 32 are placed in the proximity of the front mirror of the laser. Alternatively, the components may equally as well be placed in the proximity of the rear mirror of the laser, in which case light emitted from the rear mirror of said laser is used to determine the wavelength.

[0034] The Fabry-Perot filter and the first and the second detector may be arranged relative to one another in a manner different [to] from that shown in Figure 4, so as to detect at least wavelengths. The first and the second detector may be arranged to measure light transmitted through the Fabry-Perot filter and/or light reflected towards the Fabry-Perot filter, such as to detect wavelengths.

[0035] The hysteresis effect exhibited by lasers causes the power output of the laser in respect of certain reflector currents, with otherwise constant conditions, to be different due to the reflector current having taken its existing value by virtue of the reflector current having increased to said value or having decreased from a higher value. The wavelength is also influenced by the hysteresis effect. Such operation points as those which lie in the regions of hysteresis with respect to the reflector current, or with respect to other tuning currents for those sections that exhibit hysteresis, are non-preferred operation points for a laser in operation.

[0036] Communication lasers [shall be] are adapted to operate at certain given wavelengths that are included in a so-called channel plane, where each channel corresponds to a well defined wavelength. According to the invention, the Fabry-Perot filter 32 is adapted to have a certain given transmission for each wavelength included in the channel plane.

[0037] When the ratio between the detector signals I1/I2 from the detectors [32] 34, 33 lies within a predetermined range₁ implying that the emitted light lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter₁ and said ratio I1/I2 lies within said range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of the

reflector current, the control combination for the tuning currents is stored₁ in accordance with the invention.

[0038] This range is given by the permitted channel width in the channel plane.

[0039] These control combinations thus [fulfil] fulfill the criteria that will give desired wavelengths and not result in any hysteresis effect.

[0040] In certain cases [,] it is preferred that one or more other tuneable currents to sections that exhibit [an] a hysteresis effect, excluding the reflector current, are swept so as to determine whether or not hysteresis occurs [in] at a contemplated operation point.

[0041] According to one preferred embodiment, the signal I2 is delivered from the first detector 33 to the power regulating circuit 20. The regulating circuit is adapted to control the laser so that said laser will emit light at a constant power. This enables the ratio I1/I2 to be followed very easily in determining possible operation points.

[0042] According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, a [monitored] monitor diode 40 is placed on the side of the laser opposite to that side on which the first and the second detectors are placed, said monitor diode being caused to measure the light emitted by the laser. The [detector] detected light measurement signal is led through an amplifier 41 to an A/D converter 42, whose output signal is delivered to the microprocessor 39. In this embodiment, one or more of the tuneable currents is chosen so as to [minimise] minimize the ratio between the power of the rearwardly emitted light and the power of the forwardly emitted light, thereby enabling an optimum operation point for a channel to be selected from said possible operation points.

[0043] The monitor diode 40 is placed adjacent the rear mirror of the laser in the Figure 4 embodiment.

[0044] It is highly preferred with a number of the possible operation points taken out to measure the wavelength emitted by the laser until an operation point has been obtained with each desired wavelength, wherewith the control combination for each operation point is stored. Thus, one control combination for each channel in the channel plane will be stored in the memory of the microprocessor.

[0045] It will be evident from the [aforegoing] foregoing that the use of a Fabry-Perot filter enables all those control combinations that do not fulfil the criterion that the ratio between the currents I_1/I_2 shall lie within a certain given range to be sorted out. Moreover, it is sufficient for communications purposes to identify one control combination for each wavelength in the channel plane that lies in a region in which the laser exhibits no hysteresis.

[0046] The present invention thus solves the problem mentioned in the introduction.

[0047] Although different embodiments have been described, and therewith in respect of a GCSR laser, it will be obvious that the structural design of the described arrangement can be varied while achieving the same result. The invention can also be applied to lasers of a type other than GCSR lasers.

[0048] It will therefore be understood that the present invention is not restricted to the aforescribed and illustrated exemplifying embodiments thereof and that variations can be made within the scope of the following [Claims] claims.

[CLAIMS]

What is claimed is:

20210-543E1650

ATTACHMENT A

SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

(Including All Changes From Published International Application No.
PCT/SE00/00292)

A METHOD OF CHARACTERISING A TUNEABLE LASER

Background of the Invention

Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates to a method of enabling a tuneable laser to be characterized quickly.

[0002] The method can be applied for evaluating and selecting lasers with respect to emitted wavelength and to find good operation points systematically.

Description of the Related Art

[0003] Tuneable semiconductor lasers have a number of different sections through which current is injected, typically three or four such sections. The wavelength, power and mode purity of the lasers can be controlled by adjusting the current injected into the various sections. Mode purity implies that the laser is at an operation point, i.e., at a distance from a combination of the drive currents where so-called mode jumps take place, and where lasering is stable and side mode suppression is high.

[0004] In the case of telecommunications applications, it is necessary that the laser is able to retain its wavelength to a very high degree of accuracy and over very long periods of time, after having set the drive currents and the temperature. A typical accuracy in this respect is 0.1 nanometer and a typical time period is 20 years.

[0005] In order to be able to control the laser, it is necessary to map the behavior of the laser as a function of the various drive currents. This is necessary prior to using the laser after its manufacture.

[0006] Mapping of the behavior of a laser is normally effected by connecting the laser to different measuring instruments and then varying the drive currents systematically. Such instruments are normally power meters, optical spectrum analyzers for measuring wavelength and sidemode suppression, and line width measuring devices. This laser measuring process enables all of these parameters to be fully mapped as a function of all different drive currents.

[0007] One problem is that lasers exhibit hysteresis. As a result of the hysteresis, the laser will deliver different output signals in the form of power and wavelength in respect of a given drive current set-up, i.e., with respect to a given operation point, depending on the path through which the laser has passed with respect to the change in said drive currents, in order to arrive at the working point in question. Thus, this means that a given drive current set-up will not unequivocally give the expected wavelength or power.

[0008] In the case of a tuneable laser, the wavelength of the emitted light is determined mainly by the current or voltage across the tuning sections. The power emitted is controlled by current to the gain section of the laser or by the voltage across said section.

[0009] When characterizing a laser, all of the possible control combinations afforded by the tuning sections, or a subset of said sections, are investigated. During the characterizing process, the emitted light is studied with respect to wavelength and

sidemode suppression and controlling the gain section with regard to power adjustment.

[0010] The enormous number of possible control combinations, typically tens of billions, of which fewer than a hundred will be selected, makes total mapping of the laser impossible in view of the large amount of data generated.

Summary of the Invention

[0011] The present invention solves this problem and provides a method of quickly sorting away control combinations that do not result in correct wavelengths.

[0012] The present invention also relates to a method of evaluating a tuneable laser and determining suitable laser operation points for a laser that includes two or more tuneable sections, in which injected current can be varied and of which at least one is a reflector section and one is a phase section. The method includes leading part of the light emitted by the laser to an arrangement that includes a Fabry-Perot filter and a first and a second detector, said detectors being adapted to measure the power of the light and to deliver a corresponding detector signal. The detectors are arranged relative to the Fabry-Perot filter such that the data signals will contain information relating at least to the wavelength of the detected light. The currents are swept through the tuning sections so as to pass through different current combinations, and the ratio between the two detector signals during said sweeps is measured. The reflector current in the inner sweep variable is swept in one direction and then in the opposite direction back to its start value. The control combination for the tuning currents is stored when the ratio between the detector signals lies within a predetermined range that indicates that the light emitted lies within one of a number

of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter, and when the ratio lies within said predetermined range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of said current.

Brief Description of the Drawings

[0013] The invention will now be described in more detail with reference to exemplifying embodiments thereof and also with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

[0014] -Figure 1 is a perspective, partially cut-away view of a DBR laser;

[0015] -Figure 2 is a sectional view of a tuneable Grating Coupled Sampled Reflector (GCSR) laser;

[0016] -Figure 3 is a sectional view of a Sampled Grating DBR laser; and

[0017] -Figure 4 is a schematic block diagram illustrating an arrangement which is used in accordance with the invention.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

[0018] Shown in Figure 1 is a DBR laser which includes three sections, namely a Bragg reflector 1, a phase section 2 and a gain section 3. Each section is controlled by injecting current into respective sections through respective electric conductors 4, 5, 6.

[0019] Figure 2 is a sectional view of a tuneable Grating Coupled Sampled Reflector (GCSR) laser. Such a laser includes four sections, i.e., a Bragg reflector 7, a phase section 8, a coupler 9 and a gain section 10. Each of the sections is controlled by injecting current into the respective sections.

[0020] Figure 3 is a sectional view of a Sampled Grating DBR laser that also includes four sections 11, 12, 13, 14, of which sections 11 and 14 are Bragg reflectors, section 13 is the phase section, and section 12 is the gain section.

[0021] These three laser types are common, although other types of lasers exist.

[0022] Although the invention is described below essentially with reference to a GCSR laser according to Figure 2, it will be understood that the invention is not restricted to any particular type of tuneable semiconductor laser, but can be applied correspondingly with tuneable lasers other than those illustrated by way of example in the drawings.

[0023] The present invention relates to a method of evaluating tuneable lasers and determining suitable laser operation points. The laser may thus contain two or more tuneable sections in which injected current can be varied in a known manner. The laser is of the kind which includes at least one reflector section and one phase section.

[0024] Figure 4 is a block diagram which illustrates an arrangement used in accordance with the present invention. The reference numeral 15 identifies a GCSR laser, while the reference numeral 16 identifies current generators for injecting current into the reflector section, the phase section and the coupler section respectively of said laser, through respective conductors 17, 18 and 19. The power of the laser is controlled to its gain section by means of a power regulating circuit 20, via a conductor 21.

[0025] The laser emits light from the front mirror to a light conductor 23, for instance a light-conducting fiber, via a lens pack 22. This light conductor leads the

light to a light splitter or divider 26 which switches part of the light to another light conductor 24. The remainder of the light is led further in the light conductor 25. The light splitter 26 switches, e.g., 10%, of the light from the conductor 23 to the conductor 24.

[0026] The light conductor 24 leads the light to a second light splitter or divider 27, which functions to divide the light equally between two light conductors 28, 29. A lens 30 and a lens 31 are disposed at respective ends of the light conductors. A Fabry-Perot filter 32 is provided in the beam path downstream of the lens 30. The filter 32 is well known and will not therefore be described in more detail in this document. Fabry-Perot filters can be designed to exhibit a certain light transmission solely for certain wavelengths, normally wavelengths that are multiples of a given wavelength. The Fabry-Perot filter exhibits a deviating lower or higher transmission at other wavelengths.

[0027] A first detector 33 is provided downstream of the lens 31, and a second detector 34 is provided downstream of the Fabry-Perot filter. The detectors 33, 34 function to measure the power of the light and to deliver a corresponding detector signal to an A/D converter 37, via a respective amplifier 35, 36.

[0028] The A/D converter 37, the power regulating circuit 20 and the current generators 16 are all connected to a microprocessor 39 via a data bus 38. The microprocessor is adapted to control the current generators and the power regulating circuit in a desired and a well known manner, in response to the signals from the A/D converter 37 and the power regulating circuit 20.

[0029] According to the invention, part of the forwardly emitted light is thus conducted to the first detector 33 and also to the second detector 34, via the Fabry-Perot filter 32.

[0030] According to the invention, the currents are swept through the tuning sections 18, 19, 21 such as to pass through different current combinations. The ratio between the two detector signals I1 and I2 is measured during said sweeps.

[0031] When sweeping the currents through the tuning sections, the reflector current is the inner sweep variable. It is meant by this that the reflector current is swept for different combinations of other tuning currents while holding said other currents constant. The reflector current is swept first in one direction and then in the opposite direction, back to its start value. For instance, the reflector current is swept from a zero value and up to its maximum value and then down to zero again.

[0032] By current control in the present document is meant that the current through the sections is controlled by current generators or, alternatively, by controlling the voltage across the sections.

[0033] In the case of the Figure 4 embodiment, the first detector 33, the second detector 34 and the Fabry-Perot filter 32 are placed in the proximity of the front mirror of the laser. Alternatively, the components may equally as well be placed in the proximity of the rear mirror of the laser, in which case light emitted from the rear mirror of said laser is used to determine the wavelength.

[0034] The Fabry-Perot filter and the first and the second detector may be arranged relative to one another in a manner different from that shown in Figure 4, so as to detect at least wavelengths. The first and the second detector may be arranged

to measure light transmitted through the Fabry-Perot filter and/or light reflected towards the Fabry-Perot filter, such as to detect wavelengths.

[0035] The hysteresis effect exhibited by lasers causes the power output of the laser in respect of certain reflector currents, with otherwise constant conditions, to be different due to the reflector current having taken its existing value by virtue of the reflector current having increased to said value or having decreased from a higher value. The wavelength is also influenced by the hysteresis effect. Such operation points as those which lie in the regions of hysteresis with respect to the reflector current, or with respect to other tuning currents for those sections that exhibit hysteresis, are non-preferred operation points for a laser in operation.

[0036] Communication lasers are adapted to operate at certain given wavelengths that are included in a so-called channel plane, where each channel corresponds to a well defined wavelength. According to the invention, the Fabry-Perot filter 32 is adapted to have a certain given transmission for each wavelength included in the channel plane.

[0037] When the ratio between the detector signals I_1/I_2 from the detectors 34, 33 lies within a predetermined range, implying that the emitted light lies within one of a number of wavelengths given by the Fabry-Perot filter, and said ratio I_1/I_2 lies within said range for a given reflector current in both sweep directions of the reflector current, the control combination for the tuning currents is stored, in accordance with the invention.

[0038] This range is given by the permitted channel width in the channel plane.

[0039] These control combinations thus fulfill the criteria that will give desired wavelengths and not result in any hysteresis effect.

[0040] In certain cases it is preferred that one or more other tuneable currents to sections that exhibit a hysteresis effect, excluding the reflector current, are swept so as to determine whether or not hysteresis occurs at a contemplated operation point.

[0041] According to one preferred embodiment, the signal I2 is delivered from the first detector 33 to the power regulating circuit 20. The regulating circuit is adapted to control the laser so that said laser will emit light at a constant power. This enables the ratio I1/I2 to be followed very easily in determining possible operation points.

[0042] According to another preferred embodiment of the invention, a monitor diode 40 is placed on the side of the laser opposite to that side on which the first and the second detectors are placed, said monitor diode being caused to measure the light emitted by the laser. The detected light measurement signal is led through an amplifier 41 to an A/D converter 42, whose output signal is delivered to the microprocessor 39. In this embodiment, one or more of the tuneable currents is chosen so as to minimize the ratio between the power of the rearwardly emitted light and the power of the forwardly emitted light, thereby enabling an optimum operation point for a channel to be selected from said possible operation points.

[0043] The monitor diode 40 is placed adjacent the rear mirror of the laser in the Figure 4 embodiment.

[0044] It is highly preferred with a number of the possible operation points taken out to measure the wavelength emitted by the laser until an operation point has been obtained with each desired wavelength, wherewith the control combination for each

operation point is stored. Thus, one control combination for each channel in the channel plane will be stored in the memory of the microprocessor.

[0045] It will be evident from the foregoing that the use of a Fabry-Perot filter enables all those control combinations that do not fulfil the criterion that the ratio between the currents I_1/I_2 shall lie within a certain given range to be sorted out. Moreover, it is sufficient for communications purposes to identify one control combination for each wavelength in the channel plane that lies in a region in which the laser exhibits no hysteresis.

[0046] The present invention thus solves the problem mentioned in the introduction.

[0047] Although different embodiments have been described, and therewith in respect of a GCSR laser, it will be obvious that the structural design of the described arrangement can be varied while achieving the same result. The invention can also be applied to lasers of a type other than GCSR lasers.

[0048] It will therefore be understood that the present invention is not restricted to the aforescribed and illustrated exemplifying embodiments thereof and that variations can be made within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

2020-04-26

Fig. 1

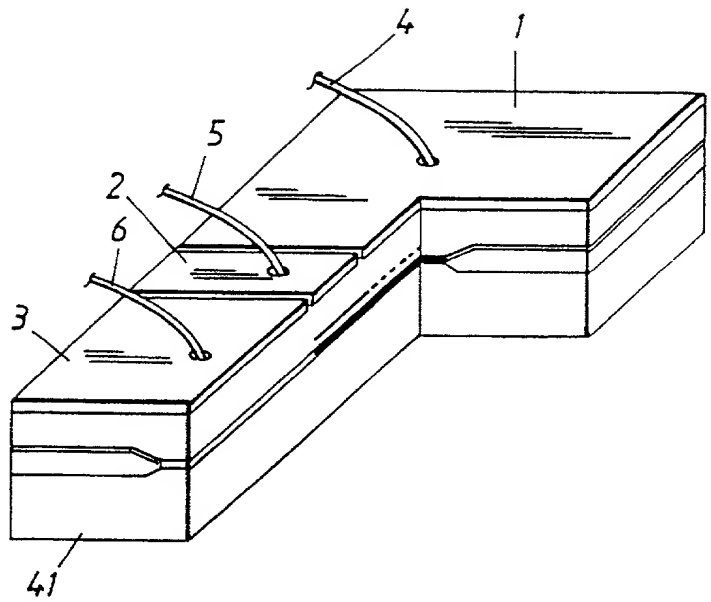


Fig. 2

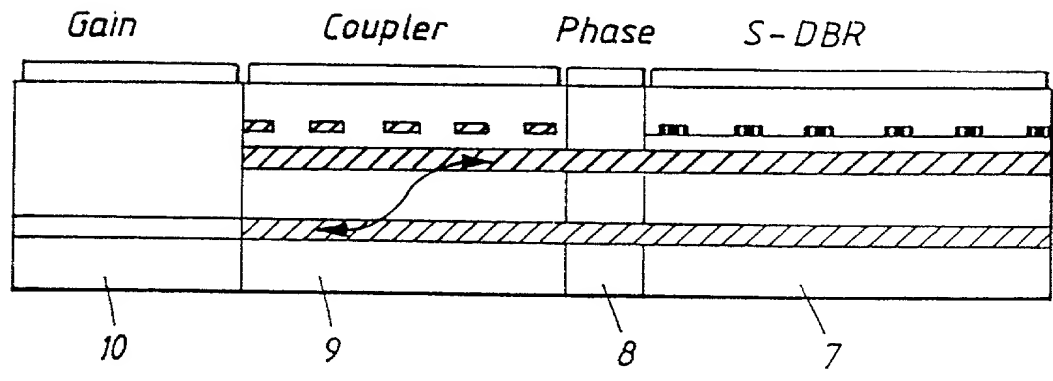


Fig. 3

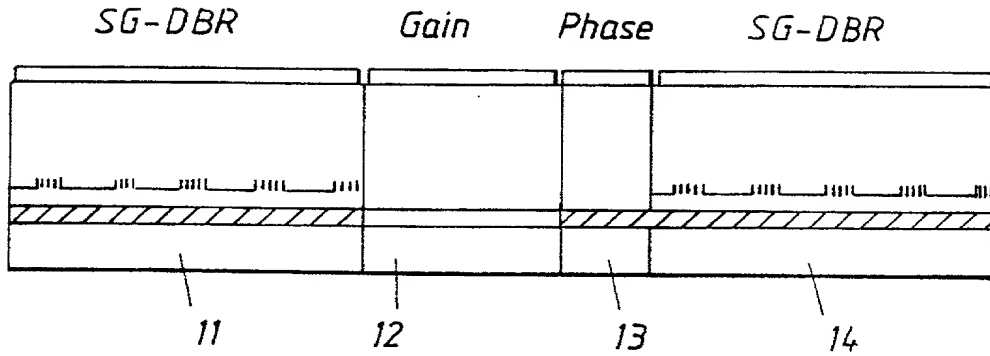
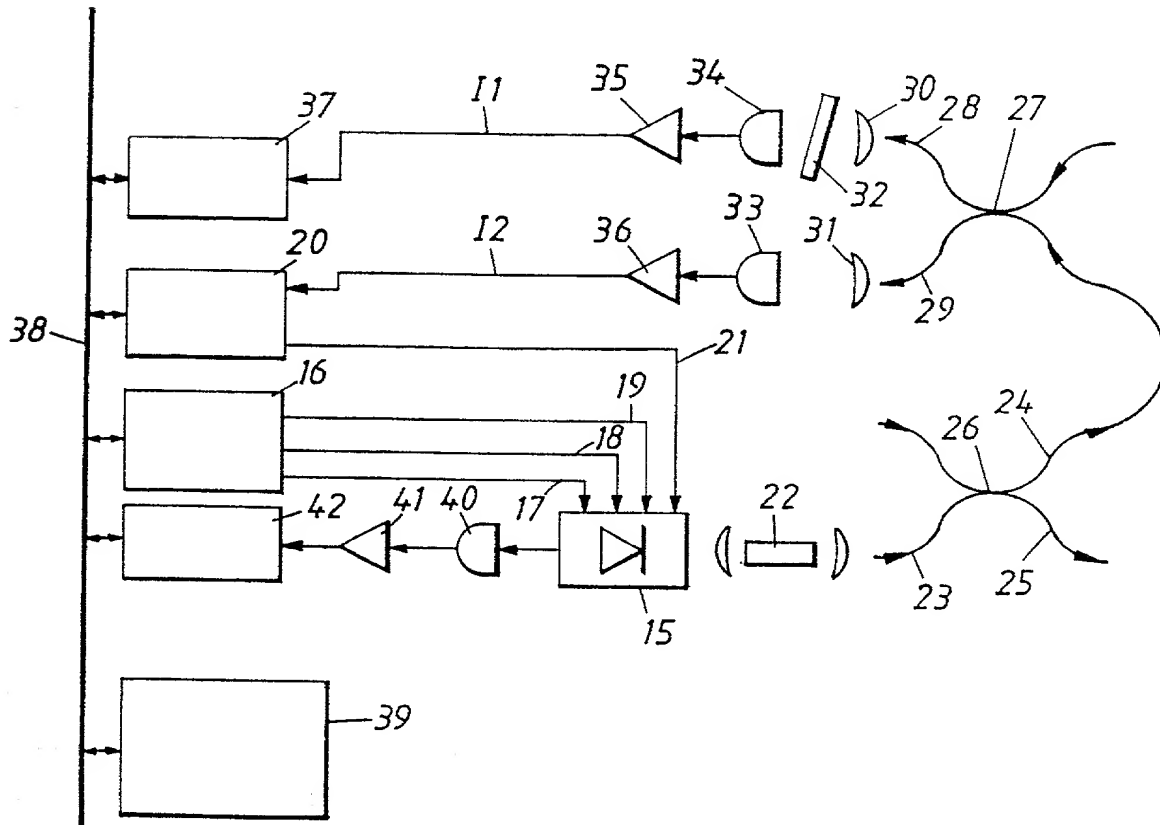


Fig. 4



DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.

1419

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled A method of characterising a tuneable laser the specification of which

(check one)

☐ is attached hereto.
☒ was filed on

February 15, 2000

as

Application Serial No.

PCT/SE00/00292

and was amended on

(if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a), and Title 35 USC §102, as printed on the reverse of this Declaration and which I have read.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

9900536-5

(Number)

Sweden

(Country)

17 February 1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☒ Yes ☐ No

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐ Yes ☐ No

(Number)

(Country)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐ Yes ☐ No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status — patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status — patented, pending, abandoned)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint

Alfred J. Mangels, Registration No. 22,605, my attorney with

full power of substitution and revocation to prosecute this application, to receive correspondence from and transact all business in the Patent Office connected therewith. The correspondence address of the above attorney is:

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO: Alfred J. Mangels4729 Cornell RoadCincinnati, Ohio 45241-2433

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

(513) 469-0470

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor

Lars Andersson

Inventor's signature

Lars AnderssonDate 5/10/01

Residence

153 N ST, Belle Mead NJ 08502, USA

Citizenship

SWEDEN S-FX

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